

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the House of the House of Commons,
dated 18 February 1853,—for,

COPY "of the INSTRUCTIONS issued by the TREASURY to *Richard Griffith*,
Sir William Cubitt, and *Mr. Rendel*, Civil Engineers appointed to inquire into
the ARTERIAL DRAINAGE in Ireland."

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 13 July 1853.

My Lords have before them the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed in the last Session of Parliament to inquire into the operation of the Acts relating to Arterial or River Drainage in Ireland, as administered by the Board of Works.

The Committee state that there are 12 works which were commenced under the Summary Proceedings Act (9 Vict. c. 4), and that the limit prescribed by the Act, of 3 l. an acre upon the average of the whole area having been attained, and the works being still unfinished, the proprietors withhold their assent to a renewal of the works, from an apprehension of being subjected to an indefinite outlay, arising from altered plans and estimates. "In such cases," the Committee observe, "it is very desirable that there should be an inquiry upon the spot, without delay, with the view of deciding upon a plan for completing the works to the best advantage. Such an inquiry, guided by engineering science of a high order, and by great experience in works of drainage in England, and perhaps elsewhere, would probably at once give the proprietors confidence, their assents would be obtained, and the works completed."

My Lords concur in opinion with the Committee, that a full inquiry should be made on the spot into the circumstances of these 12 drainage works, and that Commissioners should be selected for the purpose, who will combine, in the highest degree, the professional and other attainments required for the successful discharge of this important duty.

My Lords are accordingly pleased to appoint Mr. Griffith, Chairman of the Board of Works, and Mr. Walker and Mr. Rendel, Civil Engineers, to be Commissioners for this purpose.

It is their Lordships' desire that the Commissioners assemble in Dublin with the least practicable delay, and visit each of the 12 drainage districts in succession; and that, after making a survey and examination of the ground, and such further inquiries as they may deem requisite, they should report in respect to each work, upon the following points:—

- 1st. The original plan and estimate for the works.
- 2d. The alterations subsequently made or proposed by the Board of Works.
- 3d. The course of proceeding recommended by the Commission, showing the nature and extent of the deviations from the plan and estimate last proposed by the Board of Works, which are recommended by the Commission, and the reasons for them.

As a careful regard must be had to the improved value likely to be added to the lands, according to each suggested modification of the original plan, in order that the course of proceeding may be adopted which will, on the whole, be most for the advantage of the proprietors and other parties concerned, the Commissioners should have the assistance of the ablest and most experienced Valuers who are to be obtained. My Lords consider that the object in view will be best promoted by giving the Commissioners full discretion to employ such Valuers as they think best.

The Commissioners will also be at liberty to employ such assistance as they require for the preparation of plans, &c., to be executed under their immediate direction; but my Lords rely upon their not incurring expenditure, on this or any other account, beyond what may be absolutely necessary.

It is their Lordships' desire that the Commissioners should receive and consider any representations which may be made to them by or on behalf of the proprietors or other persons interested in the works; and the officers of the Drainage Department of the Board of Works will furnish full information on every point which calls for explanation from them.

Finally, the Commissioners will report, in reference to each work, whether the proprietors concur in the propriety of the course of proceeding recommended by them, and are prepared to give their assent, in the terms of the Act, to the further expenditure required for the completion of the work according to the plan recommended by the Commissioners.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to Messrs. Griffiths,* Walker and Readell, for their information and guidance.

Also transmit a copy to the Commissioners of Public Works, for their information, and desire that they will facilitate, by every means in their power, the operations of the Commission.

And transmit a copy to Mr. Wynne, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

*Note.—Subsequently to the date of this Minute, Mr. Walker having been obliged, by the state of his health, to resign his appointment as one of the Commissioners for the Arterial Drainage in Ireland, the Lords of the Treasury, by their Minute of 8th November 1852, selected Sir William Cubitt, Civil Engineer, to succeed him.

Whitchell, Treasury Chambers,
22 February 1853.

JAMES WILSON.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE (IRELAND).

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 12 July 1852,
entailing Instructions issued to Commis-
sioners appointed to inquire into Arterial
Drainage in Ireland.

(See Thomas Burke.)

Ordered by The House of Commons to be Printed

6 April 1853.